

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re New Patent Application of)
Shinji MAEKAWA et al.)
Japanese Priority Application No. 2002-342694) Attn: Applications
Japanese Priority Date: November 26, 2002) Branch
For: MANUFACTURING METHOD OF)
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE) Date: November 26, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 07-183540 is in the same family as U.S. Patent 5,643,826 and European Patent 0 651 431.

Japanese Patent No. 3107941 is in the same family as Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 6-260651 and U.S. Patent 5,814,540.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 07-161634 is in the same family as U.S. Patent 5,543,352.

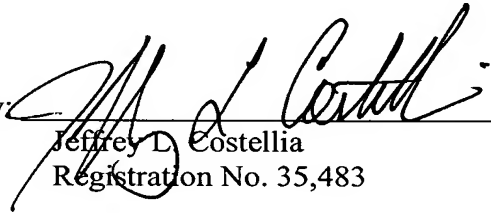
Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 10-335672 is in the same family as U.S. Patent 6,072,193.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2002-324808 is in the same family as U.S. Publication No. 2002/0098628.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Jeffrey D. Costellia
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP
401 9th Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128

(202) 585-8000

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known			
				Application Number		New Application	
				Filing Date		November 26, 2003	
				First Named Inventor		Shinji MAEKAWA et al.	
				Art Unit			
				Examiner Name			
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number		740756-2671	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-5,643,826	07/01/1997	Ohtani et al.	
		US-5,814,540	09/29/1998	Takemura et al.	
		US-5,543,352	08/06/1996	Ohtani et al.	
		US-6,072,193	06/06/2000	Ohnuma et al.	
		US 2002/0098628 A1	07/25/2002	Hamada et al.	
		US-5,879,977	03/09/1999	Zhang et al.	
		US 2002/0048864 A1	04/25/2002	Yamazaki et al.	
		US-4,599,133	07/08/1986	Miyao et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 07-183540	07/21/1995	Ohtani et al.		Abstract
		EP 0 651 431 A2	05/03/1995	Ohtani et al.		
		JP 06-260651	09/16/1994	Takemura et al.		Abstract
		JP 3107941	09/08/2000			
		JP 07-161634	06/23/1995	Ohtani et al.		Abstract
		JP 10-335672	12/18/1998	Ohnuma et al.		Abstract
		JP 2002-324808	11/08/2002	Hamada et al.		Abstract

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials [*]	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.